

## **Lincoln School**



**Parent walking with child to school.**

### **Description:**

Lincoln Elementary School is located at 40 Lincoln Street within a compact urban neighborhood near downtown Augusta characterized by single-family residences on small lots. Lincoln School is the only school from the Augusta School District that is part of the Maine Safe Ways to School Research Project. It was selected as the best example of an urban neighborhood school for the project and because the District Superintendent and Lincoln School Principal are committed to promoting walking and bicycling to school.

About 270 students are enrolled in grades K – 5. Even though the school is within an older, compact urban neighborhood, there still are very few students walking and bicycling to school. Cut-through traffic and perceived personal safety were identified as deterrents to biking and walking.

Primary access to the school is via local and collector streets near the school, including Johnson, Green and South Chestnut. Students residing further north must cross Winthrop Street, which has a significant downgrade eastbound approaching Chestnut. Much of the student population lives south of Western Avenue, a busy multi-lane highway. (See map on following page).

### **Surveys:**

Over 150 completed Safe Ways to School surveys were received from Lincoln School in fall 2001, representing a 56 percent response. This was the highest response rate of the four districts included in the statewide research project. Nearly all of the surveys were completed by parents.



**About half of the students travel to the Lincoln School by bus.**

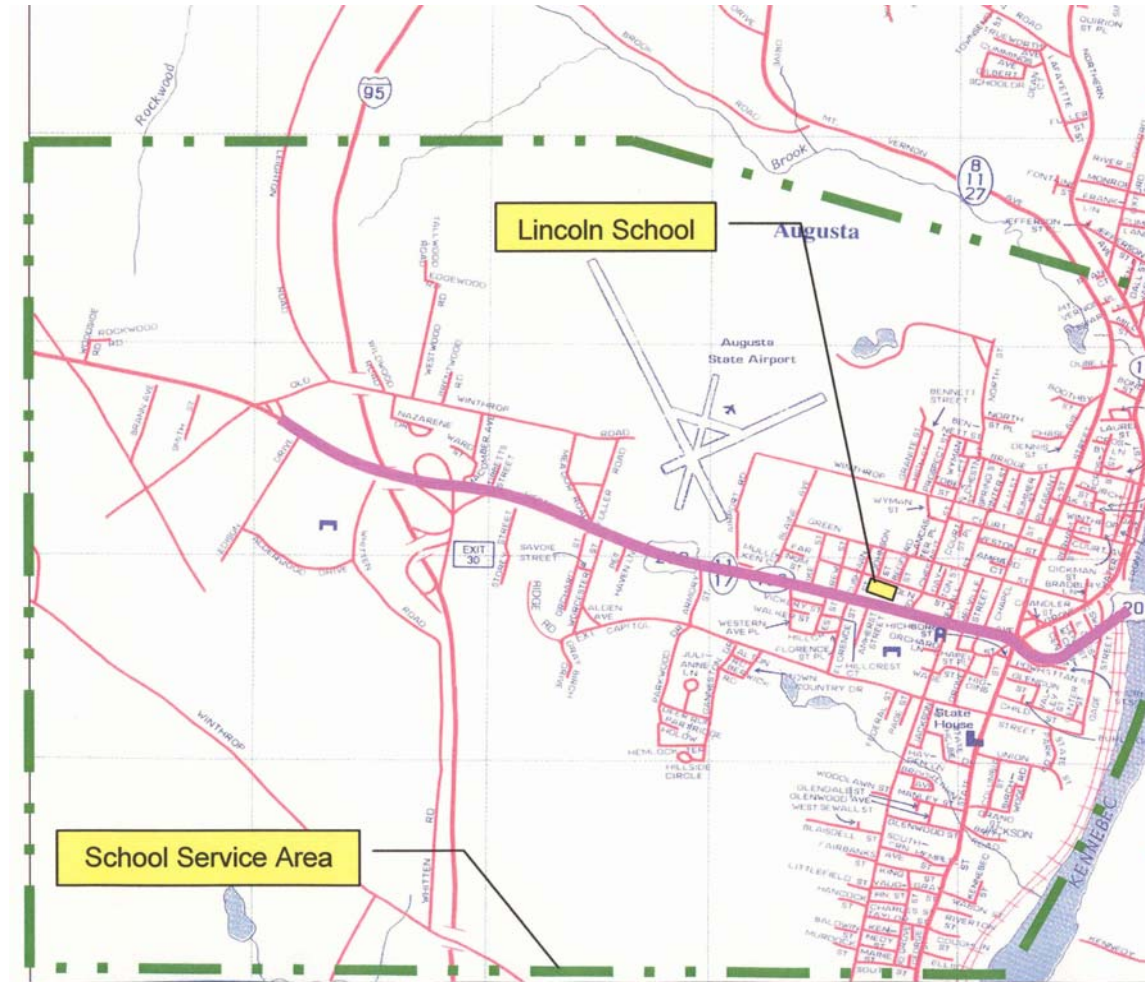
### Western Ave. at Cushman Street



Student crossing Western Avenue during morning rush hour.



The crosswalk markings on Western Avenue are not visible.



Service area for the Lincoln School with Western Avenue highlighted in magenta.

### Western Ave. at Sewall Street



St. Mary's School in background (looking north)



Western Avenue looking east





Winthrop Street at Chestnut Street  
(looking west up a steep grade)

**Student Proximity (home-school) Lincoln School**

Within 1 mile	Within 3 miles	Within 5 miles	> 5 miles
55%	87%	99%	1%

**Student Regular Mode of Access to Lincoln School<sup>1</sup>**

Walk	Bicycle	School Bus	Private Auto	Carpool
8%	1%	48%	22	1%

Nearly half of Lincoln School students travel to and from school on a school bus five days a week. While only 8 percent of students walk to school every weekday, another 7 percent walk to school 1 to 4 days per week.

Western Avenue is perceived by many parents as a barrier along their child’s route to school. Many Lincoln School students live south of Western Avenue and must cross Western Avenue to get to the school. Western Avenue is a four-lane arterial with turn lanes at major intersections. The City deploys crossing guards at the unsignalized intersection with Cushman Street (left) and at the signalized intersection with Sewall Street (right).

**Challenges:**

Pedestrian crossings of Western Ave. and Winthrop St., cut-through traffic in West-side neighborhoods, lack of sidewalks on some streets comprise the major challenges of walking to Lincoln School.

**Recommendations:**

Traffic calming on west-side neighborhood streets, walking school bus programs for those within reasonable walking distance; Completion of sidewalk network in West Side Neighborhood, improved pedestrian signal at Sewall St. and Western Ave.; better separation of pedestrians from drop-off traffic at the school.

<sup>1</sup> Results for those who stated they travel by each mode five days per week. Totals add to 91 percent. The remaining 9 percent travel to school via different modes during each week.